ended March, 1998, it has *inter alia* been brought out that scrutiny of the records in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Daman & Diu, revealed that funds aggregating Rs. 85.88 crore which pertain to Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-plan were diverted to other schemes/activities. These observations are based on sample check of documents for the period 1992—98 of the Ministry and the implementing departments and agencies of 17 States and one U.T.

(c) In order to ensure timely utilization of funds provided for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Tribes and minimize the scope for diversion of funds, the following measures have been taken:—

(i) Utilization Certificates insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained.

(iii) Central Government officers visit the States/UTs to ascertain on the spot the progress of implementation of schemes.

(iv) Meetings/Conferences are convened at Central level with State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare to ensure timely submission of proposals for release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes.

(v) At the State level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Committee, Project Implementation Committees of ITDPS at Block levels and Panchyat Samities monitor timely spending of money and effective implementation of Schemes.

Misappropriation of funds meant for tribal development

†1114. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of misappropriation of central funds meant for development of tribal by the officers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Governments came to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action being taken by Government; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such misappropriation of amount in future?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any report of misappropriation of central funds meant for development of tribals by the officers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Governments.

Displacement of tribal communities

†1115. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tribal communities have been displaced on a large scale from their traditional abode in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by government to curb this tendency?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tribals have been displaced and alienated from their traditional abode owing to various socio-economic reasons. The latest information in this regard, collected from Ministry of Rural Development is given below:

(in acres)

Name of State	Area
1. Andhra Pradesh	31324
2. Assam	4192
3. Bihar	9742
4. Gujarat	19633
5. Karnataka	15352
6. Madhya Pradesh	61275
7. Orissa	896
8. Rajasthan	1526
9. Tripura	21

(c) Land being a State subject, most of the State Governments have enacted laws for prevention of alienation of tribal land. The Supreme Court in a recent judgement in 'Samatha' case has restricted transfer of tribal land. Relevant extracts of the judgment have been circulated to the State for compliance.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.